

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01398 061606Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 MCT-01 SY-05 INR-10 SP-02
PA-01 EUR-12 /057 W
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R 060945Z JUL 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6424

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1398

STADIS//////////

FOR NEA/ARN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINR, IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQ AND EUROPEAN TERRORISTS

REF: BAGHDAD 1379

1. SOMETIME PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL HERE, DE BORCHGRAVE
EVIDENTLY RECEIVED A FAIRLY EXTENSIVE BRIEFING ON IRAQI
INVOLVEMENT WITH WEST EUROPEAN TERRORISTS. HE INDICATED THAT
HIS CONTACTS REVEAL SECURITY SERVICES IN EUROPE, PARTICULARLY
THE FRENCH, HAVE AMPLE AND UNQUESTIONED EVIDENCE THAT EUROPEAN
TERRORISTS ARE USING IRAQ AS A BASE AND PROBABLY AS A TRAINING
SITE AS WELL.

2. THIS IS AT LEAST PARTIAL REASON FOR POINTED QUESTION
ASKED OF SADDAM DURING JULY 1 INTERVIEW AND BRIEFLY NOTED
IN PARA 4 OF REFTTEL. TRANSCRIPT (PAGE 4) INDICATES
SADDAM ACKNOWLEDGED POSSIBILITY THAT SOME TERRORISTS FROM
EUROPE MIGHT HAVE ENTERED IRAQ WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF
GOI OR DISGUISED AS PALESTINIANS. HE THEN WENT ON TO SAY
THAT ANY EVIDENCE THE EUROPEANS POSSESS ON THIS
SUBJECT WOULD BE APPRECIATED SINCE IT WOULD PERMIT
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IRAQIS TO "CONFRONT OUR PALESTINIAN FRIENDS WHO DENY
THEY HAVE ABUSED OUR HOSPITALITY THIS WAY."

3. COMMENT: WE HIGHLIGHT THE FOREGOING MERELY TO
INSURE THAT IT IS NOT OVERLOOKED IN WASHINGTON WHERE AN
ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLIED OFFER OF COOPERATION CAN BE MADE.
THE GENERAL CONSENSUS LOCALLY IS THAT THE SECURITY

APPARATUS, WHILE PERVASIVE, IS IMPERFECT. THUS IT IS POSSIBLE
THAT THE GOI IS UNAWARE OF AT LEAST SOME RPT SOME OF ITS
CLANDESTINE VISITORS. IT IS ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE LEVEL
OF SUCH ACTIVITY HAS DROPPED OFF IN RECENT MONTHS, OR IS
AT LEAST LESS PUBLIC.

PECK

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